

Other UDOT Traffic Information Brochures:

- Speed Limits
- Traffic Signals
- Left Turn Traffic Signals
- Pedestrian Signals
- Work Zone Safety

For More Information:

Please contact a UDOT Regional Traffic Engineer located in your region of the State:

Northern Utah (801) 399-5921

Salt Lake County (801) 975-4900

Utah County (801) 227-8019

Southern Utah (435) 893-4799

Or visit the UDOT website at
<http://www.udot.utah.gov>

How can you get involved with School Zone safety?

School Community Councils

Utah state law requires each public school to establish a School Community Council. Among other responsibilities, the School Community Council is responsible to establish the child access routing plan. The Council includes both parents and employees of the school. Comments and suggestions to the Council are encouraged.

School Traffic Safety Committees

In addition, each school district is required by law to establish a School Traffic Safety Committee. The Committee includes school employees, PTA representatives, city or county officials, law enforcement, and UDOT when appropriate. Each School Community Council reports to the district School Traffic Safety Committee. Comments and suggestions to the School Traffic Safety Committee are also encouraged.

Get involved!



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SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY



**Division of Traffic
and Safety**

School Zones

In 1992, the Utah Legislature passed the “School Zone Safety Act.” The Act included several measures to improve the safety of pedestrians in the vicinity of Utah’s schools. Under this law, UDOT has developed specific standards for the location, design, and operation of school zones. Each school is responsible to prepare a child access routing plan. This plan, which includes a map, describes recommended walking routes to school including all school crossings and traffic controls. This brochure provides a summary of the state law and the standards pertaining to School Zones.

What are the laws pertaining to School Zones?

The School Zone Safety Act includes the laws governing both the establishment and use of School Zones. It establishes uniform signing and enforcement of Reduced Speed School Zones. Flashing lights are required during the hours of operation of the reduced speed. The fines for violating the reduced speed limit can rise as high as \$275 for the first offense, and \$525 for the second offense.

What is a School Zone?

Two common types of School Zones are **School Crosswalks** and **Reduced Speed School Zones**.

School Crosswalk

A School Crosswalk is defined as a marked crosswalk designated on the school access routing plan without a reduced school speed limit. Typical signing includes the School Advance Warning Assembly and the School Crosswalk Warning Assembly (pictured).

Reduced Speed School Zone

A Reduced Speed School Zone is a section of highway in advance of a School Crosswalk that has a reduced speed limit. The school zone speed limit of 20 MPH applies from the School Speed Limit Assembly (pictured) to the “End School Zone” sign.

How is a Reduced Speed School Zone established?

UDOT has developed specific standards for school zones as required by Utah law. These standards have been adopted as a School Zone Supplement to the “Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices” (MUTCD). This Supplement is titled, “Traffic Controls for School Zones” and is available on the UDOT Website at www.udot.utah.gov. Use of the School Zone Supplement ensures the same standards for all school zones throughout the state so that drivers become familiar with the standard location, signs, and operation of School Zones.

Warrant processes have been established for School Crosswalks and for Reduced Speed School Zones to determine their appropriate use. School Zones cannot be used indiscriminately, as their improper use would result in drivers’ indifference.

A School Crosswalk must be warranted before a Reduced Speed School Zone can be considered. The warrant criteria for a School Crosswalk requires a minimum of 10 school children using a crosswalk and an average daily traffic of at least 500 vehicles on the road. Crosswalks not meeting this criteria are marked as regular pedestrian crosswalks.

Once a School Crosswalk is warranted, an engineering study can be performed to determine if a Reduced Speed School Zone is warranted. The study considers:

- Vehicular and pedestrian volumes;
- Available gaps in traffic;
- The posted speed limit on the road;
- The presence of a stop sign or traffic signal at the School Crosswalk; and,
- The type of school: elementary, middle, or high school.

What are the signs used in School Zones?

The School Advance Warning

Assembly is placed in advance of School Crosswalks and Reduced Speed School Zones to warn drivers that they are entering a School Zone. Drivers should have a heightened awareness of pedestrians.



The School Crosswalk Warning

Assembly is placed adjacent to the school crosswalk to show the driver the location of the crosswalk. Drivers should be prepared to stop at the crosswalk.



The School Speed Limit

Assembly is placed in advance of the crosswalk. The speed limit of 20 MPH is in effect only when the attached lights are flashing.



The reduced speed is in effect between the School Speed Limit Assembly and the “End School Zone” sign. The “End School Zone” sign is generally located 50-feet beyond the school crosswalk.

